

ABSTRACT

A multi-beam source unit adjusting method is disclosed wherein an arrangement direction of light emitting points of a multi-beam laser diode relative to a horizontal scanning direction of a scanning optical system can be aligned with a predetermined standard design line direction.

The multi-beam source unit is provided with a multi-beam laser diode (31) capable of emitting multi-laser beams from plural light emitting points, the multi-beam laser diode (31) having a stem (31B) formed with a cutout portion (46), and a collimator lens (33) for collimating the multi-laser beams, the multi-beam source unit being designed so as to be set to a scanning optical system on the assumption that the plural light emitting points are arranged in the direction of a predetermined standard design line when they are present on a virtual straight line defined by the said cutout portion (46), the method comprising measuring an arranged state of the light emitting points with respect to the standard design line on the basis of beam spots on an image surface corresponding to an image recording surface and rotating the multi-beam laser diode (31) about an optical axis of the scanning optical system to align the arrangement direction of the light emitting points with the direction of the standard design line.